

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRAS 00417 151448Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 PM-05 DODE-00 /024 W
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R 151009Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL MADRAS
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4496
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FOR DEFENSE AND ARMY ATTACHE FROM MCCASKILL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BTRA, MMOL, IN
SUBJECT: VISIT OF GOI DEFENSE MINISTRY DELEGATION TO U. S.

1. DURING A BRIEF COURTESY CALL MARCH 15, BRIGADIER K. N. TANDON, DIRECTOR OF THE GOI DEFENSE MINISTRY'S VEHICLES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ESTABLISHMENT (VRDE) AT AVADI NEAR MADRAS, TOLD US THAT HE AND TWO OF HIS DEPUTY DIRECTORS, COLONEL P. M. MENON AND MR. D. RAGHAVAN, HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TO LEAVE NEW DELHI MARCH 19 FOR THE U.S. TO VISIT TELEDYNE CONTINENTAL MOTORS' GENERAL PRODUCTS DIVISION AT MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN, "TO LOOK AT SOME EQUIPMENT."

2. BRIG. TANDON STATED THAT HE DOES NOT HAVE HIS COMPLETE SCHEDULE IN THE U.S. SAYING ONLY THAT HE WOULD SPEND ABOUT TWO WEEKS VISITING MUSKEGON, THE WATERLIFT COMPANY AT INDIANAPOLIS, AND THE ALLISON CORPORATION AT DETROIT. BRIG. TANDON INDICATED THAT HIS TEAM MIGHT PURCHASE SOME EQUIPMENT FROM THESE COMPANIES BUT HE GAVE US NO DETAILS OF THE EQUIPMENT IN WHICH HE IS INTERESTED. WE ASSUME FROM WHAT HE SAID THAT BRIG. TANDON'S TEAM IS INTERESTED IN EVALUATING THE SUITABILITY OF EQUIPMENT FROM THESE THREE PLANTS
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FOR USE HERE.

3. VRDE, A UNIT OF THE GOI DEFENSE MINISTRY, IS LOCATED ADJACENT TO ANOTHER GOI DEFENSE MINISTRY UNIT, THE HEAVY VEHICLES FACTORY (HVF) WHICH MANUFACTURES VIJAYANTA TANKS. VRDE, AS THE NAME IMPLIES, IS THE R6D UNIT AND NORMALLY FUNCTIONS AS AN ADJUNCT TO THE HVT.

4. BRIG. TANDON DID NOT REQUEST ANY ASSISTANCE IN THE U.S. FOR HIS VISIT, SAYING THAT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WAS IN CHARGE OF HIS PROGRAM. HE STATED IN THAT REGARD THAT THE PRESIDENT OF TELEDYNE CONTINENTAL MOTORS, A MR. ROUSE, WAS IN NEW DELHI IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR FOR PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE VISIT. MCCASKILL

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Message Attributes

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